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VISITOR'S GUIDE

TO

INVERNESS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.



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GUIDE

TO

INVERNESS AND VICINITY.

INVERNESS, the Capital of the Highlands, is situated on the banks of the River Ness, near to its confluence with the Beauly Firth. It commands the eastern approach to the Great Glen of Scotland (*Gleann-mor-na-h-Alba*), and lies in the centre of a vast amphitheatre of hills which fence in the town and surrounding plain on every side. These hills form a magnificent screen, present every variety of aspect, and stand like an armed host about the town, which lies at rest under their protection. Thus sheltered, notwithstanding its high latitude, the climate of Inverness is exceedingly mild, temperate, and healthy. The hills guard it from the most violent winds, its inland situation, and the long sweep of the Moray Firth, mitigate the severity of the east winds in early summer, and the Great Glen conveys the western winds loaded with warmth and moisture through its extended gorge to smooth and brighten the brows of winter and drive away the northern colds. The rainfall is also lessened, as the clouds are deprived of much of their moisture by the high hills all around. Snow seldom lies long; and observations made particularly during recent winters, show that the average temperature is considerably above that of places much further south.

While it is more to our purpose to consider what Inverness is than what it has been, still to a stranger it will not be altogether uninteresting to cast a glance at its early history. Without attempting to trace its origin into prehistoric times, we are safe in affirming its great antiquity.

The first trustworthy information regarding Inverness is of the date 565 A.D., when we learn that St Columba visited "*ad ostium Nessiæ*" to convert the Pictish King Brudeus II. Until the eleventh century we learn no more of the town. In the year 1029, according to the historians from whom Shakespeare obtained the materials for his famous tragedy of Macbeth, it was in the Castle of Inverness that the "gracious Duncan" met his untimely death. How King Duncan fell, and where, may still be considered open questions, but there can be no doubt Macbeth had a stronghold in or near Inverness. He was Maomor (great man) of Ross by right of inheritance, and by marriage became Maomar of Moray, and what is more likely than that he should have had a castle here, the most central and important point in his dominions? Macbeth's Castle is supposed to have stood on an eminence close by the eastern part of Inverness, termed the "Crown." Malcolm Ceanmore, after the fall of Macbeth, destroyed his strongholds and among others that of Inverness. Immediately afterwards, he erected a new Castle here on the commanding site now occupied by the County Buildings. Up to 1056 the town of Inverness stood in close proximity to Macbeth's Castle, but after the erection of a new one, the inhabitants began to move gradually westwards towards the banks of the Ness, so as to be under the shelter and protection of the stronghold.

Inverness was erected into a royal burgh by David I., and had various charters granted from time to time by successive kings, the last, and most valuable, being conferred by James VI. In the many struggles and continual deeds of violence which for ages agitated the country north of the Grampians, Inverness played no mean part, and being the key to this portion of the kingdom, it was frequently visited by the Scottish monarchs, who sought to attach the inhabitants by numerous benefits in the shape of charters, grants of lands, and other gifts, with privileges and immunities peculiar to those "good old days."

In the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745 Inverness being one of the strongholds of the Jacobites, played an important part. In the former year Sir John Mackenzie of Coul

seized the Castle in the Jacobite interest, but it was retaken by a force of Royalists under Lord Lovat, Rose of Kilravock, and Forbes of Culloden, on the very day that the Battle of Sheriffmuir decided for a time the fate of the Stuarts. In 1745 Inverness was occupied by Sir John Cope for a brief period, and afterwards by the Earl of Loudon. In 1746 the latter retired northward before the approach of Prince Charles Edward and his army, having left a garrison in the Castle. Upon the arrival of the Highlanders in the town they besieged the Castle, and having taken it, blew it up. At this date the stronghold bore the name of Fort-George, having been named so in 1718 in honour of the reigning monarch.

Since the date of the last Rebellion Inverness has enjoyed, like the rest of the country, uninterrupted peace, and has largely partaken in the general advancement and improvement for which the century has been distinguished. Particularly within the last twenty years it has made rapid strides forward. Indeed, since its connection with the rest of the country, effected by the railway, it has made great material progress. The population has largely increased (17,385 at the census of 1881), new streets and houses have been laid out and erected, while elegant villas are springing up in every choice spot in the vicinity. One of these streets—Union Street, immediately opposite the Railway Station—though not of great length, would not suffer by comparison with almost any in the Scottish metropolis for tasteful and varied ornamentation. Professor Blackie says—"Such a happy combination of sea and land beauties, so much central culture with such an amplitude of wild environment, is seldom to be found, not to mention the fresh breeziness, and comparative mildness and proved salubrity of the climate." He has given to the world the following sonnet in praise of the northern capital:—

Some sing of Rome and some of Florence ; I
Will sound thy Highland praise, fair Inverness :
And, till some worthier bard thy thanks may buy,
Hope for the greater, but not spurn the less.
All things that make a city fair are thine,
The rightful queen and sovereign of this land

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Brightest in Britain's glory-roll, and stand
Best bulwarks of her bounds—wide-circling sweep
Of rich green slope and brown-empurpled brae,
And flowery mead, and far in-winding bay,
Temple and tower are thine, and castled keep,
And ample stream that round fair gardened isles
Rolls its majestic current, wreathed in smiles.

The Highland Capital may be considered to occupy the same relative position with regard to the Northern Highlands that Edinburgh does to the Lothians. It is the leading emporium of the surrounding counties. From it they are furnished with all the luxurious necessities of civilisation; and it is the school to which many come for improvement in education and culture. Here, too, the young men for miles around learn their business, and in the first instance push their fortunes. The town, however, is not industriously in a position even to compare with its less favoured brethren. It has, too, all the advantages of water-power and carriage, ready access to the north and south, and being a seaport, proximity to the sea. The only employments carried on which give work to any great number of people are the Railway works, two woollen factories, several iron foundries and saw mills, a tobacco manufactory and several newspaper and printing establishments.

THE TOWN HALL, CASTLEHILL, NESS ISLANDS, ETC.

Now that we have given the visitor some notion of Inverness and its belongings, our next duty is to conduct him through its streets and favourite walks, starting on each occasion from the most central point, namely, *The Exchange*, situated at the junction of High Street with Castle Street, and Church Street with Bridge Street. Here stands the Town Hall. The building (towards the erection of which the late Mr Grant of Bught left a bequest of £5000) is in the early decorated style of Gothic, and occupies an area of about 700 square yards, with frontages to High Street, Castle Street, and Castle Wynd. The main entrance is from High Street, and it first gives access to a roomy

vestibule, off which, on either side are smaller lobbies, leading to the various municipal offices. In front is the main staircase leading to the Hall proper. This is a spacious apartment, 66 feet long, 35 feet broad, and 33 feet high. The arch-headed windows, it will be observed, are filled in with antique glass, bearing the arms of the Highland Clans, the Royal Scottish and Town Arms, and subjects representing Art, Science, Law, Agriculture, Education, and Literature, as well as the arms of the Incorporated Trades of the burgh. The stained glass in the centre window is the gift of Mrs Warrand of Bught, and shows figures of Ossian and Scott—as representative of ancient and modern poetry in connection with the Highlands—and smaller figures of Justice and Religion. In the upper divisions are the donor's family arms. The hall is also graced with the bust of an eminent townsman, Dr Robert Carruthers—a name cherished in all literary and artistic circles. The bust is the last finished production of the chisel of the late Alexander Munro, himself a native of Inverness.

On this floor there is also the Council Chamber. The walls are lined with portraits, most of whom in former days were in some degree local benefactors—namely, Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Provost of the burgh in 1626; James Robertson, M.D., of Aultnaskiach, also a former Provost; a copy of Ramsay's original portrait of Flora Macdonald; President Forbes, the "Sagacious Duncan;" Hector Munro of Novar, some time M.P. for the burgh; Sir John Barnard, a London alderman, who assisted the Council in obtaining the Act for the ale duty; and the late Prince Consort, who was made a burgess of the burgh in 1846, and was received in Inverness on the occasion of his visit with true Highland enthusiasm.

Returning outside, the town arms will be observed over the front centre window, with the motto "*Concordia et Fidelitas*," those which were on the former Town Hall, are built into the west gable, while the old panel bearing the Royal Arms has been placed in the east gable. A handsome fountain, presented to his native town by the late Dr G. F. Forbes, is placed on the open space in front of the

Town Hall. Encased in the base of this is the time-honoured *Clach-na-cudainn* (Stone of the Tub). The "Clach," as it is shortly termed, is of a bluish colour, and oval in shape. The stone is invested with peculiar interest in the eyes of Invernessians, by whom it is looked upon in some measure as the palladium of the town. Natives of Inverness in all parts of the world turn with fond affection to "friends around the Clachnacudden." Sir Walter Scott calls it the Charter Stone of the Burgh. Till 1796 the Town Cross, with the Clach at its base, stood in the middle of the street. Up to 1746 the Cross and Clach were overshadowed by an apple tree, and round this worthy trio the ancient burghers gathered for an evening gossip, while the young women of the town, as they passed from the Ness with water tubs, rested to hear the tattle, and hence the Celtic name *Clach-na-cudainn*.

Leaving the Town Hall, we turn to the left, and proceed up the Castle Wynd. On the right hand is the Free Public Library and Reading-Room, an institution supported by assessment. Next to it is the Burgh Court-house and Police Office, and further up is the County Prison, modelled after that in Edinburgh, and erected in 1846. Having reached the top of the ascent, the site of the County Buildings, a panoramic view, scarcely to be surpassed, breaks upon the sight, and we take our stand beside two Russian cannon (trophies of the Crimean War). The dark lowering masses on the left which skirt the horizon are the mountains on the eastern bank of the River Nairn, the verdant and cultivated slope in front of which contrasts singularly with the bleak, bare, and rocky screen behind. Straight in front of us is the Great Glen of Scotland. Here sublimity in its highest sense and the utmost loveliness contend for superiority, lending their various graces and excellences to enhance and vary the enchanting landscape. At our feet glides the Ness, bordered on either side in the immediate vicinity of the town with pleasant villas and trimly kept gardens, and higher up, the stream is fringed with coppice and forest trees. In the river, fully half-a-mile distant, lie the Ness Islands, girded about by the glittering stream as with threads of silver. In

the near foreground is the isolated hill of Tomnahurich, presenting the appearance of an upturned boat, which has by a happy idea been converted into a cemetery. On our right rises the Hill of Craig Phadrig, on the summit of which are the remains of a Vitrified Fort, and where Hugh Miller made some of his earliest discoveries in Geology. With its neighbour, Dunearn, on the slope of which stands the Northern District Lunatic Asylum, the most extensive and imposing edifice in the neighbourhood. The height which towers aloft in the extreme distance, and in which the ridges on our right and left seem to merge, is the dome-shaped Mealfourvie, the base of which is washed by the waters of Loch-Ness. Near us all is exquisite loveliness, suggestive of repose and quiet—in the distance terrific grandeur and wildness—suggestive of gloom and storm and tempest. Going round to the back of the County Buildings we obtain a good view of a large portion of the town. In the background we get a glimpse of the Caledonian Canal. We can here trace the course of the river as it flows through the town, almost till it falls into the Beauly Firth. On the north side of the Firth is that portion of Ross-shire called the Black Isle. The screen of hills beyond, and bounding the horizon, are those of Strathconon and Strathfarar, while more to the right is huge Ben-Wyvis. Wildness reigns here supreme, and is only shaded and mellowed by the waters of the Beauly Firth and a few cultivated patches on the face of the Black Isle.

Having sufficiently feasted his eyes with the rich and varied views of river, hill, and dale, the stranger may, if he chooses, enter the noble building beside which he is standing. It forms, as we have indicated, the County Buildings, and is locally named the Castle, from this being the site where stood the stronghold originally built by Malcolm Ceanmore. Inside are the offices belonging to the various county officials, and the Sheriff Court-house, where also the half-yearly assizes are held for all the northern counties. The Court-house is adorned with a splendid painting by Raeburn of the late Charles Grant of Glenelg, long M.P. for

the county, and in a niche of the staircase is a bust by Park of the late William Fraser-Tytler, long Sheriff and Convener of the county. The Court-house was built in 1834.

Leaving the Castlehill by the gate at its western extremity, we proceed down to the bank of the Ness, and continue our walk for fully half a mile up by the side of the river. On the table-land above to the left is the pleasant suburb of Drummond; but here we have reached the entrance to the Ness Islands, and at once cross the suspension bridge. The Islands form a most pleasant retreat, and in all seasons are a place of favourite resort. In former times these Islands were the scenes of rural feasts, given by the Magistrates of Inverness to the Lords of Justiciary when on circuit—one of the chief dishes served up on these occasions being salmon caught in presence of the company in the vicinity of the spot where the banquet was held. From the farthest extremity of the western island a charming bit of landscape shows itself, with the fine broad sweep of the river just in front. To the left, on the hill above is Campfield, from which the most romantic view of the Highland Capital is to be obtained, and beyond, close by the side of the river, is the Holme Woollen Factory, where the original Inverness tweeds continue to be made. On our right are the lands and gardens of Bught, while the hill of Duncan, with its neighbours Tor Vean, and Tomnahurich, assume more lovely aspects than when we viewed them from the Castlehill. Retracing our steps a short distance, we now cross by another suspension bridge to the other side of the river, and on the road back to town the numerous large and handsome houses dotted over the elevated terrace of Drummond (already referred to) cannot fail to attract notice, while the massive proportions of the Castle, harmonising well with those of the Jail, form a prominent feature in the landscape. Passing several villas, we come to the Northern Infirmary, which was erected in 1803, for the benefit of all the Northern Counties. The institution is maintained by voluntary contribution, and as instancing the benefits it has conferred on the community the report for the year ending December 1885 shows that up to that date since its erection

25,718 patients had been cured and relieved. The handsome building we next reach is the residence of the Bishop of Moray and Ross. We now come to the Cathedral of St Andrew, an excellent specimen of the decorated Gothic style of architecture, which will bear minute inspection in all its details. It is from the design of a local architect, Mr Alexander Ross. The original plans, however, could not entirely be carried out from insufficiency of funds, and thus the two spires yet await completion. It does not lie within our province to describe the internal features of the building, but as it is at all times open to the public, no one will regret passing within it at least one half-hour. The foundation stone of the Cathedral was laid by the late Archbishop Longley, Primate of all England, in October 1866. It was opened for public worship in September 1869 and now forms the seat of the Bishop of Moray, Ross, and Caithness—the Right Rev. Dr Eden, *Primus* of the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

To the left, beyond the Cathedral, in Ardross Street, is the park of the Northern Meeting, where the two great Highland gatherings annually take place—the plain bald building breaking the monotony of the surrounding high wall being the Pavilion or Grand Stand. Beyond this again is the Collegiate School, a high-class educational establishment for boys.

Resuming our walk by the river side, we reach the Suspension Bridge, which was erected by Government, at an expense of £26,000, part of which was defrayed by annual assessments levied over the northern counties. This structure replaced an old stone bridge which was carried away by the flood of 1849. Having again crossed the river, we enter on Bridge Street. The first house on our left was that in which Queen Mary resided on her visit in 1562, and here she held her courts until the subjugation of the Castle, then garrisoned by the rebellious Earl of Huntly. Almost opposite is the Working Men's Club—a handsome and commodious building, which owes its origin and present position almost wholly to the great liberality and untiring exertions of the late Mr Donald Macdougall, the founder of the celebrated Highland tweed warehouse, which bears his

name. The institution is quite a model one of its kind, possessing an extensive library, reading-room, and lecture-hall, with rooms for amusement, and is held in trust by the Town Council for the behoof of the community. At the head of Bridge Street a graceful spire attracts attention. This was the site of the former jail, which was surmounted by this steeple. Its height is 130 feet—the date of its erection being 1791. We have now returned to our starting-point—the Exchange—having spent a most pleasant and profitable couple of hours. In our next walk we propose to visit

THE LONGMAN AND CROMWELL'S FORT.

The building immediately opposite the Town Hall with the richly decorated Grecian pediment, is the head office of the Caledonian Bank. The group of allegorical figures is from the chisel of Ritchie of Edinburgh. The centre figure represents Caledonia. To the left is Plenty, and beside her a reaper and a shepherd and sheep, emblematic of the rural interests of the district. To the right a figure represents the Ness, and by her side is another female figure, symbolic of a tributary stream, while the bark and her crew represent Commerce. Opposite the bank, again, is the Young Men's Christian Association Building—a fine ornamental structure, appropriately surmounted by a colossal group of the three virtues—Faith, Hope, and Charity. Passing along High Street, a stranger cannot fail to be struck with the diversity of height and general want of uniformity in the blocks of buildings all along, and which greatly detracts from the appearance of the thoroughfare. Macdougall & Co., of the Royal Tartan Warehouse, have recently erected, just beyond the Caledonian Bank, a very handsome and imposing building in the modern style of street architecture.* Midway

* The following brief description of this handsome building may prove of interest:—The front elevation to High Street consists of three storeys and two attic floors above. The principal entrance to the warehouse is on the ground floor, the entire frontage of which is built of polished red granite, and the windows are here mounted with a deep-moulded and enriched cornice. The upper portion of the building is composed of freestone. The windows of the saloon are divided by moulded piers, having in front shafts of polished

along to our left is the Highland Club-house—a fine massive piece of mason work, originally erected by the late Lord Lovat for a hotel, and for many years the leading “commercial house” in the North. We next come to the Post-office, on the other side of the street, a building which was opened for its present purpose in the year 1844. Passing straight on, through Petty Street, we have, on the right, the termination of a high ridge called The Crown, and already referred to as having been the site of Macbeth’s Castle. We next pass a suburb termed Millburn, in which are a succession of pleasant villas and cottages, then on our right, on an elevated plateau called the Hut of Health, is the New Barracks for the depot of the 79th (Cameron) Highlanders—a massive set of detached buildings, after passing which we come to the junction of the roads from Aberdeen and Perth, a little eastward of which is Raigmore House, the residence of Eneas W. Mackintosh, overlooking the Firth, the shore of which we now approach by a level crossing on the Railway which we take and enter on the Long-

Abriachan granite, with carved capitals and moulded bases and bands. These shafts support moulded lintels rounded at the angles, and projecting over the lintels of the windows. In the centre of the frontage is a crocketed gable, projected and supported on polished granite columns, and in the upper part of this gable is placed a large representation of the Royal Arms of Scotland, cut in freestone. The building is flanked on either side by two corbelled turrets, furnished with high-pointed roofs somewhat similar to those of the new Town Hall, situated on the opposite side of the street. A public passage which leads into Lombard Street, about equally divides the whole area of the building. The Lombard Street elevation is somewhat similar to the frontage. The angle between this and the other new buildings in the street is finished with a corbelled turret similar to that at the corner of the buildings further down the street. The openings in the street floor of this elevation are ornamented at their sides with polished granite pillars, with carved capitals and moulded bases, and surmounted by a cornice similar to that over the street floor of the adjoining buildings. The internal arrangements of these handsome, airy, and commodious premises are in harmony with their outward appearance. The large front shop and warehouse occupies the whole of the ground floor, running back a depth of 47 feet, with a width of 22 feet. The first floor includes a large saloon, 51 feet by 20 feet, lighted by handsome plate-glass windows, and fitted up with mirrors between the recesses in the sides; it likewise contains a tweed room and ladies’ sitting-room. The second floor comprises a spacious dwelling-house, with entrance from the public passage, and can at any time be utilised for a warehouse if thought necessary. On the third floor is situated the milliners’ and tailors’ workrooms, facing High Street and Lombard Street respectively.

man Promenade, one of the most health-invigorating spots for a ramble or a drive in the kingdom. The round by the seaside is in length about a mile and a-half, and although, if the tide be out, the beach beside us is not of the most enchanting nature, the view beyond, in all directions, is surpassingly lovely and romantic. Dr Macculloch has written that "the Firth of Forth must yield the palm to the Moray Firth," and in this all who have had opportunity of witnessing the scenery of both must coincide. As we walk along the promenade we come into closer contact with the Black Isle, which we already viewed from the Castlehill. Away up towards the head of the Firth rise in solemn and majestic grandeur the mountains of the Conon and the Farar, while omnipresent Wyvis keeps watch and ward over all. Opposite to us, close by the shore, nestling at the foot of the Ord Hill, is the little village of Kilmuir, with its row of clean white-washed houses, having in close proximity the mansion-house of Drynie. During the summer months Kilmuir is a popular place of residence with many Inverness families. It possesses an excellent bathing beach. Looking down the Firth, just on the horizon line will be observed the garrison of Fort-George, and jutting out from the north shore Chanony Point and Lighthouse. Close beside the latter lies the royal burgh of Fortrose, and the favourite local summer resort of Rosemarkie, while all along on either side the diversity of mountain and coast scenery, woodland, and pleasant fields form the accessories of a most lovely picture. Nearly half-way round the promenade is the big gun battery of the Inverness Artillery Volunteers, pointing seawards, and the road then proceeds immediately behind the targets of the Rifle Volunteers, but no danger need be apprehended, as look-out men are always stationed to give due warning on the approach of any one and stop the firing.

Having reached the end of the Promenade, where, by-the-way, is situated the Burgh Slaughter-house, we come upon the Harbour of Inverness. Here, however, we have arrived at Cromwell's Fort, a description of which we copy from a work published many years ago:—"It cost £80,000 sterling, and was nearly five years in building. It was a

regular pentagon, surrounded at full tide with water sufficient to float a small bark. The breastwork was three storeys high, all of hewn stone, and lined with brick inside. The sallyport lay towards the town. The principal gateway was to the north, where was a strong drawbridge of oak, and a stately structure over it, with this motto: '*Togam tuentur arma.*' From this bridge the citadel was approached by a vault 70 feet long, with seats on each side. In the centre of the fort stood a large square building, three storeys high; the lower storey contained the granary and magazine. In the highest was a church, well finished, within a pavilion roof, surmounted by a steeple, with a clock and four bells; at the south-east stood a long building four storeys high, called the 'English Building,' because built by English masons; and opposite to it a similar one erected by Scotch architects. The accommodation altogether would lodge 1000 men. England supplied the oak planks and beams; Strathglass the fir; recourse was had to the monasteries of Kinloss and Beaulieu, the Bishop's Castle of Chanonry, the Greyfriar's Church, and St Mary's Chapel in Inverness for the stone-work." This fort so annoyed the Highland chiefs who had writhed under the iron reign of Cromwell, that at their request, and in acknowledgment of their loyalty, it was demolished in 1662, after the restoration of Charles II. Many of the older houses in the town are built of its materials. The outline of the fort is still quite distinct, and the ramparts along one of the sides remain almost entire.

We now proceed along Shore Street by the side of the Harbour, where the first speciality to attract notice is a finely proportioned railway viaduct spanning the roadway and river. Passing below it, about a couple of hundred yards further on, we turn to the left and enter Chapel Street. Within the wall on our left is the Chapel-Yard Burying-Ground, where the curious in such matters will find many ancient tombs and grave stones--the majority, like those in whose memories they were erected, fast moulding away. The ground is said at one time to have belonged to a monastery of Dominican or Black Friars, located in Inverness; and within it was one of the chapels which Cromwell

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demolished for the purpose of erecting his fort. Keeping to the left of the acute angle before us, Academy Street is the next on our route, about half-way along on the left is the Free East Church, the branch street beside which leads to Bell's Institution, supported by the bequest of Dr Andrew Bell of Egmont, who left to Inverness £10,000 in 3 per cent. consols, under the trusteeship of the Town Council, further along, on the same side, a plain looking building may attract notice. This is the Royal Academy, which, till lately, was the leading educational institution in the Highlands. Its charter is dated 1792. Within the grounds, to the rear of the original building, a Ladies' Institution was some years erected, and has proved most successful. Nearly opposite the Academy will be noticed the façade of the Inverness Public Markets. We now arrive at the Railway Station, with open square in front, to the left of which are the Board Room and Suite of Offices, and on the right the spacious Hotel belonging to and conducted by the Railway Company, having its front entrance to Academy Street and also an entrance from the platform by which parties have access to or from the trains entirely under cover. Turning to the right we enter on Union Street, to which we have already referred. The handsome church half way along is in connection with the United Presbyterian denomination, and opposite is the largest public hall in town—termed, we may almost say as a matter of course, the Music Hall. At the end of Union Street we enter on Church Street and turn to the left. At the corner of the next opening is a large plain building, which is almost entirely reserved for the two assemblies held annually in September under the auspices of the gentlemen of the Northern Meeting. The proximity of the town spire will have warned our companion that he is again approaching the Exchange, where in the meantime we leave him, purposing in our next ramble to visit the

CALEDONIAN CANAL, CRAIG PHADRIG, CLACHNAHARRY.

There are at least two routes by which we can reach the localities enumerated above. First, we might walk down Church Street and cross the Wooden Bridge over the Ness,

near to the Harbour, and proceed through the Merkinch district of the town; or we can cross the river by the Suspension Bridge, taking the road down by the river bank—Huntly Street. This latter road we prefer. The first building on Huntly Street calling for notice is the Roman Catholic Chapel, built in 1836. Directly opposite, on the other side of the river, is the Free High Church—occupied by one of the most influential congregations in the North. Near it, with its pillared portico, is the Theatre Royal, erected by a joint-stock company, and Conservative Hall. Only a few yards from the R. C. Chapel we pass the West Church (Established)—a large square building—opened in 1840. On the opposite side again is the High Church (Established)—with its quaint-looking turret or tower, situated within the Church-yard. Continuing down the river side, we strike off to the left by way of Wells Street, just before reaching the Free West Church, and then turning to the right along Telford Street, we pass the long established and beautifully laid-out nurseries of Messrs Howden & Co., and in a few minutes reach the basin of the Caledonian Canal.

The Caledonian Canal was formed to obviate the danger and delay of making the passage round the Pentland Firth. The work was carried out at public cost—the expense of the undertaking being about one million sterling. The work was commenced in 1803, but it was not till about the latter end of 1822 that the Canal was opened throughout from sea to sea. Its route lies through the centre of some of the most magnificent scenery in the Highlands, and embraces in its course the chain of lakes extending along the Great Glen of Scotland—Loch-Ness ($23\frac{1}{2}$ miles), Loch-Oich ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles), Loch-Lochy (10 miles). The length of cutting or artificial work to connect these lakes with each other, and with the sea at each end, amounts to a total of 22 miles. The Canal is one of those grand undertakings with which the name of Telford, the engineer, has become identified.

Proceeding up to the locks we cross the Canal at the top one, ascending the road leading up the hill. A short distance up, the road branches into two, and we take the right

one past the steading of Balnafettack, beyond which a path through the woods conducts to the summit, 555 feet high, where we come upon the Vitrified Fort. From one of the best authorities on this subject—the late Mr Peter Anderson, of Inverness—we quote the following:—"The oblong area on the top will be found encircled by a low rampart covered with turf, but underneath which the raised superstructure consists of stone fused by fire into a vitrified mass. The area outside of the top of the circumvallation measures 90 paces by 30. The top of the embankment is 2 or 3 yards wide, and it slopes on each side—being 3 to 4 feet high internally, while the outside slope and of the hill-face in continuation is, in parts, 50 to 60 feet; then succeeds, at varying intervals, from as close as 5 or 6 paces, a second embankment—partly natural—protuberances of the conglomerate rock of which the hill is a mass, and partly artificial, and which has formed an outwork all round."

Extending our walk through the wood in the direction of the Beaully Firth an excellent and extended view may be enjoyed. On emerging from the wood we come on Duff's Monument, erected on a pinnacle of rock, by the late Major Duff of Muirtown, to commemorate a desperate battle fought here in the fourteenth century between Clan Chattan and the Munroes of Fowlis, in regard to the possession of a number of cattle which the latter had levied in the south of Scotland and were conveying home to Ross-shire. This rocky eminence is named Clachnaharry—the Watchman's Stone or Seat—from the burgh magistrates having had a sentinel stationed here to give warning of any hostile approach.

The straggling little fishing village below, at one time reputed for its boat-building, bears the same name. Descending to the village we cross over to the Canal, and walk out to the outermost sea-lock, which we cross and retrace our steps by the northern bank. Shortly after crossing the railway bridge, a roadway over a stone embankment will be observed leading towards the Firth, and which terminates at the southern pier of Kessock Ferry. On the opposite side is the village of North Kessock, that about a

mile higher up being Charlestown. From South Kessock we follow the course of the river upwards, passing the Thornbush Quay, and the Brewery of the same name, and crossing the river by the Wooden Bridge, we can either continue by the bank of the Ness or by Waterloo Place. By choosing the latter we again pass the Chapel-Yard Burying-Ground, but this time we keep to the right and find ourselves in Church Street. On the right is the Gaelic Church, in connection with the Establishment—a plain-looking structure devoid of any architectural adornment. It was erected in 1792-94. Here, too, is the main entrance to the High Church, which was noticed in our walk down the other side of the river. On the opposite side, further up the street, is an ancient-looking house, named the Old Academy. It is said to have been built of the materials of Cromwell's Fort, and in its day the building has served many useful purposes—at one time an hospital, at another an academy, again doing duty as a poorhouse, and now it is occupied as a meeting place by various trades' unions, after being vacated by several lodges of temperance reformers. The latter have now a neat hall in Castle Street. On same side is Raigmore Street, parallel with Union Street, opened up by Eneas W. Mackintosh, Esq. of Raigmore, who is presently erecting a very handsome block of buildings on the North side. On this Street is to be erected New Buildings for Post, Telegraph, and other Government Offices. The next building attracting attention, on the same side of the street, is St John's Episcopal Chapel, which was opened in 1839. In another minute or two we reach the Exchange, where, as usual, we part company for a time, resolving that our next walk will be to

TOMNAHURICH.

A very pleasant route to Tomnahurich is to proceed by way of the Ness Islands, or by the west bank of the river. The shortest road is by the Suspension Bridge, proceeding straight along the road in front, and in about fifteen minutes the entrance gate is reached. We, however, proceed down

Huntly Street a short distance and turn to the left up the fine new road beside the West Church, which in a few minutes brings us again to the Canal at the upper lock. Along the banks, then, we walk westward, and enjoy a fine view of the surrounding landscape. The town of Inverness is seen to great advantage, as it extends rising by a gentle ascent from Kessock Ferry to the Castle Hill. Beyond the town lies the Moray Firth visible down to Fortrose and Fort-George, with the hill of Ord of Kessock and its prolongation extending onwards to the Souters of Cromarty, bordering the northern shore. Looking eastward we have skirting the horizon the hills of Nairnshire, beside us is the bold and rocky front of Craig Phadrig, the next peak being that of Dunearn, 948 feet high—on the north-eastern face of which stands the palatial abode of the lunatics of the Northern Counties—and then following in succession is Tor Vein, 275 feet high.

Tomnahurich stands in the plain immediately before us, and when nearing the drawbridge over the Canal, a foot-path leading from the bank through the fields towards the nearest point of the hill will be observed. This road should be followed. The name Tomnahurich signifies the Hill of the Fairies, or according to others, Hill of Primroses. The singularly shaped mound has given rise to many conjectures as to its origin, and has ever been an object of interest to tourists. Of late years the hill has been acquired by a public company, and it is now laid out as a cemetery with most tasteful effect.

The hill is about 250 feet in height, and, it will be observed, stands completely isolated from all the neighbouring hills. At some very remote period a torrent of mighty force and volume must have swept down the Great Glen and channelled out all round the hill, leaving it, as it now stands, reft asunder from the neighbouring high lands, with which it is similar in formation. One tradition connected with the hill is to the effect that here the fairies were wont to assemble on grand occasions to do homage to Cynthia, and celebrate her revels in the autumn months under the silvery moon's pale rays. Oliver Cromwell is said to have

stripped the hill of its oak when building the fort at the mouth of the Ness; and it is known that at one time it formed one of the outposts of the Castle, where sentinels were stationed to give timely notice of the approach from the north and west of any unfriendly clan. At this time the hill was named *Tom-na-faire*—the Watch hill. The Inverness race-course was situated in the plain round the hill, but the sport, which was inaugurated in 1662, has long been in abeyance.

Having reached the summit by one of the many roads with which the face of the hill is intersected, new and extended beauties open to the gaze. All round the view is unimpeded, and here the stranger's "meditations among the tombs" cannot be other than those of pure and unalloyed delight and pleasure, such as he will experience in no other cemetery in the kingdom.

We leave the hill by the gate at the opposite extremity from that at which we entered, and following the road straight into town, in fifteen minutes we again find ourselves at the Exchange.*

We have now undertaken all the more celebrated features of the district in the immediate vicinity of the town. Several very pleasant walks, however, may be enjoyed in a direction we have not traversed—namely, in the higher suburbs on the south side of the town. This, by proceeding up Stephen's Brae from Petty Street, about a mile's walk brings us to Kingsmills, and turning to the right along a quiet and sequestered roadway of half a mile or so in length, we come out in front of the Poorhouse Buildings, returning to town by one of the several roads by which the lands here are intersected. Or again, leaving town by way of Castle Street, we can proceed on to the pleasant suburb of Drummond, along the elevated terrace and past the numerous villas which have attracted attention in previous rambles, following the road which, descending the hill, brings us out opposite the Ness Islands.

* The tourist, however, if he prefers it, by taking the road nearly opposite the cemetery gate, to the right, may return by way of the Ness Islands.

EXTENDED EXCURSIONS IN THE VICINITY.

We now propose making several excursions to places of interest in the neighbourhood of Inverness, of which there is a variety of choice in every direction, and our first visit will be to

CULLODEN MOOR, CLAVA CIRCLES, AND CAWDOR.

No visitor to the Highland Capital having the time at his command, can consider that he has fulfilled his mission without paying a visit to Culloden Moor—the scene of the turning-point in the last momentous epoch in the history of the kingdom, and where the last battle on British soil was fought. By road the moor is about five miles from the town, but if the railway be preferred the pedestrian will only have about two miles to walk from the Culloden Station, and on the way he may inspect the seat of the Forbeses of Culloden, where Prince Charles lodged for some nights before the battle. The road, however, is preferable. Starting from High Street, we proceed by Millburn, taking the Perth Road for two and a half miles. After passing the entrance to Inshes House we leave the Perth Road, following the old road to Nairn, from which there is a most extensive panoramic view of a large portion of Inverness and Ross-shires, of about 100 miles in a straight line from Mealfour-vonie on Loch-Ness to the Ord of Caithness, with the hills from Kintail extending northward through Ross and Sutherland in the background, and the beautiful valley of the Ness and the Beaully firth in the foreground, where we have a commanding view of Inverness, Beaully, Avoch, Fortrose, and Fort-George. When past the farm of Blackpark of Culloden we have on our left a hut used as a stable by the Duke of Cumberland, about half a mile farther on we reach the battlefield. On either side of the road are green grassy spots, the graves of the Highlanders, on which the present proprietor, Duncan Forbes, Esq. of Culloden, has erected monumental stones which mark the graves of the various clans, as well as the large circular monument on the left.

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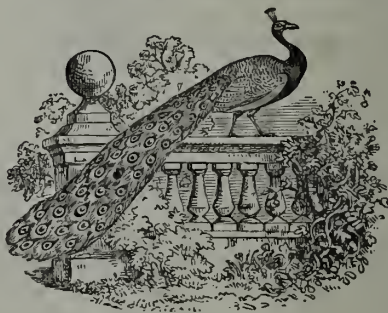
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The English soldiers were buried where now is an arable field also marked by a stone on the right hand side of the road with the significant inscription—a sad warning to all Englishmen—"The English are buried here." The "Cumberland Stone," a large flat boulder, where the English commander and his staff took up their position, will be observed at the angle of the road leading past the farm of Leanach to the water of Nairn.

The Clava Stone Circles, supposed remains of the Celtic Druids, are about a mile south of the battlefield, on the opposite bank of the River Nairn. A wooden bridge crosses the river a little below the Leanach farm steading, opposite which there are three large cairns. These interesting mementoes of a long by-gone age were only saved from demolition, some years ago, by a remonstrance from the Antiquarian Society of Scotland, but not before several of the circle stones had been removed. Referring to the cairns opposite Leanach farm house, Mr Peter Anderson says:—"These are each within the middle circle, and of the most perfect form, *i.e.*, having three concentric circles, of what are commonly called Druidical temples. The stones in this circle are close together, while the large ones in the exterior circle are at intervals of some yards; and on the innermost circle, at least two of them, the walls have been raised of a round chamber 12 feet in diameter, and in one 8 feet, in the other only 5 feet 8 inches high, there being about two feet more in depth of the cairn stones; while of these in the middle cairn, there are only 3 to 4 feet left; and it is doubtful whether the walls of the central chamber, which is seven yards wide, have risen higher. The outer circles are 110 paces in circumference. There is a large upright boulder-stone—a compressed cube, 6 feet high and 12 feet in girth in a field about 230 paces east of the most easterly, which is the most entire of the cairns; and to the west of the most westerly, at a distance of 600 paces, there is an erect slab stone 8½ feet high, 3 feet 2 inches wide, and 16 inches thick. Immediately west of the second stone mentioned, there is a small square inclosure, within which are the foundations of a small church or oratory, probably one of the earliest encroachments of Christianity on northern paganism.

Still 200 paces further to the west, there is another upright slab, the largest of all, being 11 feet high, 9 feet wide at one part, and 20 inches thick—the two inner circles belonging to which are still pretty entire ; and between them the ground is strewn with cairn stones. There are a few small circles near the cairns and the first-mentioned stone ; but many others have doubtless been destroyed in reclaiming the land around the three large single stones. In short, this has been a great cemetery, and obviously of persons of high rank—not improbably of pre-historic Celtic or Pictish kings.”

Leaving Clava for Cawdor, we take the road down the Strath. On the right side of the river we enjoy a pleasant drive, with excellent views of the houses and grounds of Cantray, Holme Rose, and Kilravock on the left, Nairn in front with the Doune of Cawdor on the right, where is one of these vitrified forts so common all around the district.

Arriving at the village of Cawdor there is an excellent and well-managed inn, and having put up here, we proceed to visit the ancient Castle, the entrance gate to which is close at hand. The Castle is in excellent preservation, and forms the northern shooting quarters of Earl Cawdor. Excepting when so occupied, visitors are always made welcome to inspect the interior. Entering then across the moat by means of the old and primitive drawbridge, we reach the courtyard, and are shown over all the principal apartments, including the great baronial kitchen, at one end hewn out of the rock, the reception, dining, and drawing rooms, with their quaint furniture, curiously carved mantelpieces, and ancient and elegant tapestry. In the dungeon is the trunk of an old hawthorn tree, carefully preserved and tended with watchful care, and as our conductor informs us, the position of this tree decided the building of the Castle at this spot. The story goes that somewhere about the middle of the fifteenth century, an ass, burdened with a chest containing treasure for the erection of the Castle, was let loose by the founder, and he determined to build his stronghold at the third hawthorn tree at which the animal stopped. The chest, an iron one, is still preserved by the family. In the roof of one of the towers

will be shown the hiding-place of Lord Lovat after the '45, and mounting to the battlements, a magnificent view of all the surrounding country is obtained. A ramble through the woods of Cawdor, along the picturesque banks of the burn to the Hermitage, will be much enjoyed. Returning, we cross the River Nairn at Whitebridge, and proceed to Kilravock Castle, occupying a fine position on the left bank of the river—the seat of the ancient family of the Roses. The older portion of the Castle was built about the middle of the fifteenth century by Hugh Rose, the seventh Baron of the name, having obtained licence by patent to do so from John, Lord of the Isles, 18th February 1460. The room in which Queen Mary slept when entertained by the tenth laird, named Hugh, the “Black Baron,” is still preserved in its primitive simplicity.

Next proceeding by the village of Croy we come to Dalcross Castle, built in 1620, by Simon, eighth Lord Lovat, but is now fast falling into decay. The roof of one of the bedrooms was painted all over with coats of arms of the principal families in the county, including those of Robert Bruce, the Earls of Huntly, etc. The huge oak door still turns on its rusty hinges, the kitchen, dungeons and hall are quite entire; in the latter is the *dais* a portion of the floor is raised above the rest for the lord of the manor, his family and principal guests. It is now the property of the Mackintosh family, who purchased it in 1702. Sir Lauchlan Mackintosh, of that Ilk, died here in 1704, and the last additions to the building appear to have been made about that period. We now leave the old Castle and join the low Nairn road at Tornagrain, by which we return to Inverness, after a remarkably pleasant day's excursion, interspersed with much variety of scenes and associations.

BEAULY AND THE FALLS OF KILMORACK.

These places may conveniently be reached by rail, and leaving Inverness in the morning, by hiring at Beauly, the tourist, in one day, will not only be enabled to visit the Falls, but may extend his tour sufficiently far in the same

direction to view the sublime beauties of Strathglass, Glen-Strathfarar, Glen-Cannich, and Glen-Affrick* If it is preferred to go by road from Inverness to Beauly, a detour of a couple of miles may be made, and a visit paid to the mansion-house and magnificent gardens and grounds of Belladrum. The only remarkable feature about the village of Beauly is its ancient Priory. Beauly may be termed the headquarters of the district inhabited by the Clan Fraser, and in the neighbourhood is Beaufort Castle—the seat of its chief, Lord Lovat. The Priory was founded by Sir John Bisset of Lovat, in 1230, for monks of the order Valliscaulium—a reform of the Cistercian Order—who led a most rigid and austere life. At the Reformation the lands and buildings, excepting the chapel, were resigned by the Order into the hands of Lord Fraser of Lovat. The Priory is now a complete ruin, and there seems to have been but little of the decorated style of architecture about it. In the interior of the ruins, the places of interment of several branches of the Clan Fraser, the Chisholms of Strathglass, and the Mackenzies of Gairloch, will be pointed out. The recumbent carved figures of brave knights and fair ladies adorning some these ancient tombs, will attract attention, while the antiquarian will be interested in the Saxon characters with which some of the stones are inscribed. The main road beyond the Priory leads to the Muir of Ord—nearly two miles distant, where the great northern monthly cattle and sheep markets are held—and thence to Dingwall.

The Falls of Kilmorack are about two miles off in the opposite direction, in the course of the river Beauly. On the road beside the Falls is the parish church of Kilmorack, with the minister's manse and garden. On the right bank of the river is Beaufort Castle, a handsome building in the Scottish baronial style, just newly completed by, and now

*An excellent three days' excursion is to proceed to Cannich direct from Inverness (28 miles), remaining there over night, and crossing next day to Drumnadrochit, the centre of the beautiful Glen-Urquhart, where another night will be pleasantly spent, and returning home the third day by the banks of Loch-Ness. The route may be reversed, according to choice; and where time is an object, may be accomplished in two days, spending the night at Cannich.

the residence of Lord Lovat. The stone is from Redburn Quarry, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west from Beauly, the same as that from which the Priory was built, and the whole of the wood-work from timber grown on the Lovat Estates, and the workmanship mostly executed by tradesmen and others who are crofters or cottars, his Lordship's tenants. The Falls are not so remarkable for their height as for their general picturesque appearance, aided by the surrounding accessories of rock and wooded hills.

The falls should be viewed from several points, that from the Wooden Bridge below being particularly fine, while for nearly half-a-mile up beyond the garden the walk along the top of the cliff will be enjoyed. Indeed, for two or three miles up, the course of the river is exceedingly romantic, and is termed the *Druim*—a Gaelic word signifying “a ridge.” Beyond is Eilean Aigas (the island of Aigas), after passing which Strathglass is entered on, and then the traveller will find himself in the midst of scenery unsurpassed in the Highlands, as he approaches the entrances to Glen-Carnich or Glen-Strathfarar. Our excursion, however, on this occasion ends at the Dhuim, and we return to Beauly in time for the evening train.

FALLS OF FOYERS.

These celebrated Falls may be approached either by road or water. The road forms a splendid drive of 18 miles, most diversified in its route, and presenting now and again ever-changing magnificent views. Variety, however, being that in which every tourist is in quest, he will naturally prefer the Caledonian Canal route, per one of Mr D. MacBrayne's excellently-appointed steamers, which sails every morning (Sunday excepted) during the season at seven o'clock. Passing up the Canal, all the leading features of the surrounding country which have been described and detailed in former tours will again attract attention. After passing through the locks at Dochgarroch, the steamer enters on the small Loch-Dochfour, and on the right will be observed the showy mansion of Dochfour House (James E. B. Baillie, Esq.), erected in the

Venetian style, and where the late Prince Albert resided on his northern visit. Passing into Loch-Ness (which is nearly 24 miles in length) the fine sequestered turreted mansion of Aldourie, close by the southern shore, will be discerned. This was the birthplace of the illustrious Sir James Mackintosh, and is now the seat of Mr Fraser-Tytler. About 15 miles from Inverness the steamer reaches Temple Pier,* passes the delightful valley of Glen-Urquhart, and the ruins of Urquhart Castle. This Castle was erected by David I., who succeeded in capturing it, putting its governor, Alexander Bois, and the garrison to the sword. Sir Robert Lauder was its governor in 1334, and gallantly maintained it against the Baliol faction. In 1509 the Castle was granted by James IV. to an ancestor of the present Earl of Seafield, Grant of Grant. The Castle has been most strongly built—the walls being 9 feet thick, and it seems to have accommodated about 600 men. Three miles or so beyond the castle, on the opposite side, are the General's Hut—so-called from General Wade having here had his head-quarters when engaged forming the roads in the district—the mouth of the River Foyers, and Foyers House. We land at the pier, and under the guidance of one of the steamer's crew, or availing ourselves of the 'bus, ascend to witness what the late Professor Wilson called "the most magnificent cataract, out of all sight and hearing in Britain. . . . which it is worth walking a thousand miles to see." The Foyers rises among the lofty mountains of Boleskine and Abertarff, and flowing through the rocky glen of Foyers, falls into Loch-Ness. In its course it encounters two precipices within half a mile of one another, over which its waters are poured with tremendous velocity. At the Upper Fall the river is precipitated over a ledge of rock 40 feet in height, directly in front of which

* This is the landing place for Drumnadrochit, the famed summer retreat of Shirley Brooks. Starting from the hotel (Mr James Simpson's) as a central point many pleasant excursions may be made. In course of the Divach are the Falls of the same name, which in point of height rival those of Foyers, but are less in volume. A cottage, for several years occupied by the late John Philip, the artist, is romantically situated at the head of the ravine, beside the Falls. In the glen are numerous lodges and mansion-houses, among them a seat of the Seafield family—Balmacraan House.

a bridge of one arch has been thrown across the chasm, from which a good view is to be had. The most imposing one however, is from the channel under this bridge. Below the fall, the river sweeps rapidly along through a deep and rocky channel for nearly half a mile, and then its whole waters, dashing through a narrow opening, are again precipitated over a height of 90 feet with noise like thunder. On account of the high projecting rocks in front, the Lower Fall cannot be viewed from any point along the margin of the river, and visitors must proceed by a winding pathway along the face of the hill. This leads to a favourable standpoint, from which the whole extent of the Fall is seen, with the terrific gulf beneath and the lofty and precipitous rocks around, fringed with luxuriant birch and tangled masses of shrubs and plants, nourished by the vapour which ever floats about. The Foyers is not a large river, except in rainy weather, consequently there are great variations in the aspect of the Falls, but should the visitor be so fortunate as to see them when the river is swollen, he will behold a scene of the greatest sublimity.

The steamer waits the return of those who are proceeding further on, but as it is our intention to return again to Inverness we find our way to the Foyers Hotel, from the front of which is visible the wide expanse of Loch-Ness, set like a mirror in a huge and rocky frame. Frowning down on us from the other side is Mealfourvie, whose summit is 3060 feet above the level of the loch. This hill can be seen from Kinnaird's Head, nearly 100 miles away, and acts as a beacon for the mariners navigating the Moray Firth. Near the top of Mealfourvie is a small lake which empties itself by means of a burn falling into Loch Ness, and on the summit is a rocking stone about 20 feet in circumference, which can be moved by two persons.

The return steamer passes Foyers about half-past four o'clock, and in two hours or so we again reach the Highland Capital.

FORTROSE, ROSEMARKIE, AND FORT-GEORGE.

Crossing Kessock Ferry, we take the road over the hill by Drumderfit. On our right is the Ord hill, on the top of

which are the remains of a hill fort ; to the left, in a wood near Allangrange, are the ruins of a little Chapel dedicated to the Knight Templars, a pretty specimen of old English work. On passing through the village of Munlochy, on the north side of the Bay, will be observed a quarry from which the stones were taken for the building of Fort-George ; two miles further on we have a fine view of the House and Grounds of Rosehaugh (Mr Fletcher's). On a spur near Avoch, facing the sea, stood at one time a strong Castle, a writer of the 17th century describing the place, calls it "Castleton with the ruynes of a Castell, called the Castell of Ormond, which hath given styles to sundrie Earls, and last to the Princes of Scotland." Now nothing but the foundations can be traced. Passing through the fishing village of Avoch, a mile further on we reach the Burgh of Fortrose a place which, four hundred years ago, along with Rosemarkie, occupied a position of considerable importance. At Fortrose the Bishop of Ross had his Cathedral and residence, and thus the Burgh was the seat of law, divinity, and learning in the district. The ruins of this old Cathedral will well repay a visit. There is no record of its erection, but it appears to have been built in the latter part of the thirteenth and early part of the fourteenth centuries. The style is decorated Gothic and evidently built about the best Gothic period. It suffered during the excitement of the Reformation, after which, no doubt, the burgesses made free use of the more portable and valuable materials:—In 1572 King James VI. granted to Lord Ruthven "the haill leid quhairwith the Cathedral Kirk of Ross was theiket," and adds suggestively—"but only sae far as not already removed." In this gift the Cathedral is described as being "na Paroch Kirk, bot ane Monastrie to sustene ydill bellies." Cromwell probably removed part of the stones to Inverness. Leaving Fortrose we ascend the hill northward from which we have a beautiful view from Inverness eastward to Nairn and Morayshire, with the Moray Firth on our left, reaching St Helena we enjoy a pleasant walk down through the woods, the meandering footpath crossing Rosemarkie Burn, familiar to all visitors of the Black Isle, with its vast banks of boulder clay, denuded by water and worn into fantastic

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towers and pinnacles presenting a scene equally uncommon as picturesque. Arriving at Rosemarkie, with its beautiful and extensive sandy beach inviting a plunge in the herring pond, we visit the church-yard and examine the ancient monument there, a slab of red sandstone  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, ornamented on both sides with interlaced floral decorations, an incised cross of Greek form on the back, and a double armed cross in front, with other Celtic devices. This stone is said to be the cross of St Boniface, an Italian, who, it is supposed, came from Rome and took up his abode here in the 7th century. A church on or near the site of the present building was founded apparently in the 6th century by Moluoc, a friend of St Columba. Boniface has, however, supplanted him in legendary lore. A spring at Rosemarkie is still known as the Well of St Boniface.

We now wend our way to Chanonry Point, and cross the Ferry to Fort-George, built soon after the '45 for the purpose of keeping the Highlanders in subjection. It is an irregular polygon with six bastions carrying 69 guns and 4 mortars, and constructed for a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Fort-Major, Chaplain, 8 Field Officers, 22 Captains, 56 Subalterns, and 2090 non-commissioned officers and privates. After having surveyed the Fort, we proceed through the village of Campbelltown,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant. We take the road along the east side of the firth towards Inverness.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Campbelltown we arrive at the Church and Manse of Petty, beside which is Castle Stuart, a residence of the Earl of Moray, a castellated mansion, the western tower, which is older than the rest, supposed to be part of the older Castle of Hallhill, for some time possessed by the Ogilvies of Findlater, which was burnt in 1513. The present edifice bears the date of 1625, built by the Regent Moray. Sir Robert Gordon, speaking of a dissension between Moray and the Clan Chattan, says—"This year (1624) they gae (the Mackintoshes) to ane hous which he (the Earl) hath now of late built in Pettie called Castell Stuart; they drive away his servants from thence and doe possess themselves of all his rents in Pettie." Thus we suspect the Clan Chattan were only trying to regain what the "bonnie" Earls of Moray had at a previous time gradually *squeezed*

from them. After viewing the Castle and ground, where once was its famous orchard, we return homewards through the Estate of Culloden, the last holding on the plain of Petty which belonged to the Mackintosh which was parted with in James VI.'s time to the founder of the Culloden Family (Duncan Forbes, Provost of Inverness, whose portrait we saw in the Town House), for services in protecting the Laird at Court against the oppressions of the Earls of Moray and Huntly.

#### A RUN TO NAIRN.

This flourishing watering-place, which has been appropriately designated "the Brighton of the North," is distant by rail from Inverness some fifteen miles. A day, at least, can be spent here pleasantly by the passing tourist. Arrived at the Nairn station, the visitor will observe a large building to the right. This is the Poor-house for a combination of parishes, and beyond about a quarter-of-a-mile, on a rising eminence is Balblair House. It was on this height that the English army encamped the night before the battle of Culloden. The stranger will be much struck with the general cleanliness and tidiness of Nairn. The beautiful white stone of which it is mostly built is got from a quarry in the neighbourhood, while the porous nature of the soil also tends to its general cleanliness, all surface water being speedily absorbed. Along the line of High Street of late years buildings have been erected which would do no discredit to the main thoroughfares of our metropolitan cities. It was of this burgh King James VI. used to boast to English courtiers that he had a town in his Scottish kingdom "sae lang that the folk at one end dinna understand the folk at the other"—alluding to its being inhabited by Gaelic Celts at the west end, and by Lowland fishermen at the other. The sea beach is very extensive, and has a gentle slope outwards, while the Links laid out with an intersection of walks, form an excellent and invigorating promenade. For those not inclined to take a dip in the open sea, an excellent and commodious swimming bath has been erected, cut out of the solid rock, and covered in; while hot and cold salt-water baths are provided at other two bath-rooms on the Links. When the palatial-looking

Marine Hotel was erected by a public company, many looked on it as a somewhat doubtful venture, but its success has been such that since then it has been almost doubled in size, and in the height of the season the proprietor and lessee, Mr John Macdonald, can with difficulty find accommodation for all his patrons. Only a few years ago the visitors to Nairn during the bathing season were nearly all from the northern counties, but with the opening up of through railway communication, a place so highly favoured was not likely long to continue only with a local reputation; and the summer population of the burgh now embraces visitors from all parts of Scotland and England.

We have now indicated all that should be seen in Inverness itself and in the vicinity, but if there is still time to spare, on Saturday afternoons, during the summer months, there are pleasant excursions by steamer "doon the water" from Inverness to Cromarty, the birth place of Hugh Miller. Three miles south of Inverness is Leys Castle, and in the neighbourhood is a large and complete series of stone circles, surrounded by a deep fosse, which have formed at one time the site of a Druidical Temple, and these will be found worthy of a visit, the view from the commanding position they occupy taking in a vast extent of country.

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DIRECTION AND DISTANCE OF PLACES OF INTEREST  
FROM THE TOWN.

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|                                                                                           |                       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Craig Phadrig ( <i>a vitrified fort</i> ), and entrance to the }<br>Caledonian Canal..... | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles | W.    |
| Tomnahurich Cemetery .....                                                                | $\frac{1}{2}$ "       | S. W. |
| Druidical Temple at Leys.....                                                             | 3 "                   | S.    |
| Culloden Moor ( <i>field of battle</i> ).....                                             | 5 "                   | E.    |
| Stone Monuments at Clava .....                                                            | 6 "                   | E.    |
| Castle Stuart.....                                                                        | 6 "                   | N. E. |
| Castle Dalcross.....                                                                      | 8 "                   | E.    |
| Fort-George .....                                                                         | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ "    | N. E. |
| Cawdor Castle .....                                                                       | 15 "                  | E.    |
| Lochness and Dochfour House .....                                                         | 7 "                   | S. W. |
| Glen-Urquhart and Castle ... ..                                                           | 14 to 17 "            | S. W. |
| Falls of Foyers.....                                                                      | 21 "                  | S. W. |
| Pass of Inverfarigaig.....                                                                | 19 "                  | W.    |
| Beaully ....                                                                              | 12 "                  | N. W. |
| Falls of Kilmorack.....                                                                   | 12 "                  | W.    |
| Rapids of Beaully and Valley of the Dhruim.....                                           | 12 to 15 "            | W.    |



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